

THIRTIETH CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

Ex. Doc. No. 63.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

OCEAN STEAMERS.

LETTER

FROM

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,

IN ANSWER

*To a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 28th February, 1849, relative to the amount of money paid for transmission of the mail in ocean steamers to foreign countries.*

MARCH 2, 1849.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
March 2, 1849.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 28th February, 1849, I have the honor to state that "the amount of money contracted to be paid since the 30th June, 1845, out of the revenues of the Post Office Department for the use of, or on account of, ocean steamers carrying mails or intended to carry mails between the United States and foreign countries," is as follows:

1. From New York, by Cowes in England, to Bremen Haven, Germany, at the rate of \$100,000 per annum, in case conveyance of the mail over said route is performed as frequently as every other month; but the contract authorizes semi-monthly service to be performed, and, in case that service is performed, allows at the rate of \$400,000 per annum; that is, if each semi-monthly trip is run through to Bremen Haven; but in case the contractor runs

alternately to Havre and Bremen—which is also authorized—that is, terminating one trip per month at Bremen Haven, and one trip per month at Havre, then the compensation is to be \$50,000 less per annum, leaving it to stand at \$350,000 a year. As yet, service beyond the conveyance of once in two months has not been performed, and the compensation is, therefore, as yet at the rate of \$100,000 a year.

2. From Charleston, by Savannah, to Havana, for conveyance twice a month, at \$50,000 a year.

"The rate of postage now existing between the United States, England, France, the German states, and Brazil," as inquired by the resolution, is (presuming that it is the rate of American postage between the United States and the countries named that is inquired for) 24 cents the single letter. In respect to England, 24 cents is the entire single postage, part of which only comes to the American post office. As to the other countries, the entire 24 cents comes to the American post office, and there is, in all cases, an additional postage to be charged by and paid to the foreign government. The annexed list (A) shows what the foreign postages are in Germany, and the contiguous countries.

As to the amount of postages received on foreign mails, I have to report that this cannot be fully stated at this time. My annual report shows that upon the Bremen line \$29,082 83 had accrued in the last year; but it was believed that more had accrued than the statement comprised; but a part of a quarter's postage has been received since the establishment of the Havana line. I have, however, called on the auditor for a full statement, and will forward it with this answer, if it be possible to obtain it in season.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. JOHNSON.

To Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
of the United States.

A.

#### BREMEN LINE.

I.—Foreign postage to be charged in addition to American postage.

[Single letters limited to half an ounce in weight, and postage may be pre-paid or left unpaid, or the United States postage alone may be pre-paid, at the option of the sender.]

1. Altona .....	6 cents.
Bremen .....	nothing.
Brunswick .....	6 cents.
Cassel .....	12 "
Coburgh .....	12 "
Darmstadt .....	12 "

Frankfort-on-the-Main.....	12 cents.
Gotha.....	12 "
Hamburg.....	6 "
Hanover.....	6 "
Hesse Hamburg.....	12 "
Kiel.....	11 "
Lippe Detmold.....	12 "
Lubec.....	9 "
Mecklinburgh Schwerin.....	12 "
Mecklinburgh Strelitz.....	12 "
Nassau.....	12 "
Oldenburgh.....	5 "
Russia (kingdom and provinces).....	12 "
Reuss.....	12 "
Saxe Altenburgh.....	12 "
Saxe Meiningen.....	12 "
Saxe Weimar.....	12 "
Saxony (kingdom).....	12 "
Schaumburg Lippe.....	12 "
Schwartzburg Reidolstadt.....	12 "
Schwartzburg Sunderhausen.....	12 "
Wurtemberg (kingdom).....	12 "

[Half ounce to the single letter, United States postage only should be pre-paid.]

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| 2. Denmark, Copenhagen, and furthest parts.... | 22 cents. |
| Norway, Bergen, Christina, and furthest parts  | 30 "      |
| St. Petersburg or Cronstadt.....               | 24 "      |
| Swenden, Stockholm, and furthest parts.....    | 39 "      |

[Quarter ounce to the single letter, United States postage only should be pre-paid.]

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|--|-----------|
| 3. Alexandria.....                         | 37 cents. |
| Austria (empire and provinces).....        | 18 "      |
| Baden.....                                 | 18 "      |
| Basle, and other parts of Switzerland..... | 21 "      |
| Bavaria.....                               | 22 "      |
| Cairo.....                                 | 37 "      |
| Constantinople.....                        | 37 "      |
| Greece.....                                | 37 "      |
| Italy, eastern towns of.....               | 18 "      |

4. Newspapers and printed matter one fourth of the letter rates, and to be placed in narrow bands without any writing whatever on them.

## II.—United States postage.

[Can be pre-paid or left unpaid, according to the places to which addressed. See the foregoing list, and the remarks made above them.]

1. Letter packet postage is 24 cents single letter not exceeding

half an ounce, in addition to inland, which is 5 or 10 cents, according to distance.

[Must be pre-paid in all cases.]

2. Newspaper and pamphlet packet postage 3 cents each, in addition to inland, which is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents for each pamphlet not exceeding one ounce, and 1 cent for each additional ounce or fraction, and 3 cents a newspaper.